INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/JP2004/019488

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G11B20/00 G06F G06F1/00 H04L9/32 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G11B G06F H04L Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, INSPEC, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category 9 Relevant to claim No. χ US 5 949 877 A (TRAW ET AL) 1-9 7 September 1999 (1999-09-07) abstract figures 1a-1c,3,4 column 1, line 42 - line 48 column 1, line 62 - line 67 column 2, line 48 - column 3, line 9 column 3, line 34 - line 43 column 4, line 3 - line 11 column 4, line 26 - line 48 column 4, line 63 - column 8, line 28 column 11, line 48 - column 12, line 34 claim 1 -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 22 March 2005 30/03/2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Kopp, K Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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